

FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO

# THULE TIMES

821st Air Base Group

Thule AB, Greenland

SERVE AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

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### Thule Times Editorial Staff

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821st Air Base Group Commander  
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Chief, Public Affairs

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Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Maj. Alistair Funge (right), 22nd Space Operations Squadron Detachment 3, explains the movements of the radar inside one of the radomes at Det. 3 to Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Rudy Barnes, one of the three congressional staffers on the visit, Nov. 10. General Cartwright wanted the three staffers to see what the military was doing at Thule and the harsh arctic conditions they were living in.

## VCJCS, USO group visit Thule

**1st Lt. Lisa Meiman**  
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland -- Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, began a USO variety show featuring comedians Gabriel Iglesias and Edwin San Juan, model and singer Mayra Veronica, hip-hop artists Ying Yang Twins, and Ultimate Fighting Champion Chuck Liddell after discussing with Thule Airmen the criticality of the missions here.

General Cartwright and the USO group visited Thule Nov. 9-10, giving a performance at the Top of the World Club Nov. 9 and touring the base Nov. 10.

After giving the introduction, General Cartwright toured the ballistic missile early warning squadron here to receive updates on the upgraded early warning radar program at BMEWS.

Eventually, the Department of Defense would like to make the 12th Space Warning Squadron and other geographically sepa-

rated units housing radar entirely automatic so the systems can be run by operators in the States, General Cartwright said.

The next morning he toured the 22nd Space Operations Squadron Detachment 3, Bldg. 351 (a flattop holding BAE dorms), the pier, Base Exchange, museum and airfield tower.

"Out of my four visits here, this visit has been the best. The Airmen here are very sharp," General Cartwright said.

Three congressional staffers from the Senate and House of Representatives Armed Services Committees accompanied him to the briefings to witness first-hand the operations here.

"Congress and the American people need to see what we do here. They need to see how important Thule is for space superiority and strategic defense against possible missile attacks," said Col. Tom Peppard, 821st Air Base Group commander.

The USO group visited the chapel, pier, BX and museum Nov. 10.

# Chief's Corner

## December leadership in focus – “Compassion”

**Chief Master Sgt. Al Herring**  
**821st Air Base Group**  
**superintendent**

Arctic warriors, I could not think of a better way to lead into the holiday season than to write to you about compassionate leadership.

Some of our greatest leaders in history carved their niche by spending their life serving others. Whether defined as compassion or servant leadership, the willingness to serve so that others may benefit has been around for years.

This type of compassion is what makes Airmen want to truly emulate their leader and want to be led. Leaders must have a human touch and feel for their Airmen if they are to engender faith. It is hard to relay humanity through electronic mail. So if you think you are leading with compassion, check and see the last time you had a one-on-one conversation that did not include the computer and e-mail. If it has been awhile, recommend you grab

your hat and coat and pay them a visit. When you get there meet them at their level and bring them up to yours.

I will follow this article with my feet and get out and visit you, so keep me in check if you have not seen me where you cut your teeth.

Another important aspect to compassionate leadership is the fact that it is hard to feel the temperature of the workplace from a Power Point presentation. Power Point is a great way to express ideas but get boots on the ground and seek feedback from those you lead. One thing is certain: because the leader has the position and title does not mean they have all the answers. Leaders remember, we are supposed to have all the questions. Airmen take time to provide your leader with some feedback on how we can make Thule Air Base “outstanding and getting better” every day.

The dynamics of the leader/follower relationship has always been unique, and the earlier our comfort level adjusts

to both sides, the earlier the organization benefits. Our ability to adapt to these roles affords our commanders the opportunity to reach their best, then the unit excels and morale soars! Remember a few months ago, I wrote to you about the four indicators of a successful unit, morale was one of them.

Compassion requires Airmen to know when to lead and when to follow because in the end it's about making things better for others, even if the result is not financial gain or popular recognition. Compassion is about ordinary people making the simple look extraordinary, it is about untitled people achieving greatness by working quietly behind the scenes and selfless individuals who are willing to give of themselves for something bigger than self. Does that sound like Julemand – you bet it does.

I hope to see you all around the installation this holiday season and into the New Year expressing your compassion like only you can!

# Core Values more than just words

**Col. Jay Raymond**  
**21st Space Wing**  
**commander**

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- What defines the qualities and principles of our Air Force? Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. These are our service Core Values and they set the universal standard for conduct and behavior across our Air Force.

November's focus area for Air Force Space Command's Year of Leadership is “Core Values,” and I believe our Core Values are what unify our force and connect us to the past and future. Our Core Values are what make our military succeed. They

exist for all members of our Air Force - whether active duty, reserve, guard, or civilian. Our Core Values inspire us to do our very best, with the utmost character and dedication. Without our Core Values, our mission would fail.

So what do Integrity, Service, and Excellence truly mean to you? Are they merely words to memorize, or do you live your life by them? According to the USAF Core Values “Little Blue Book,” the reasons we have Core Values are four-fold: 1) They tell us the price of admission to the Air Force itself, 2) They point to what is universal and unchanged in the profession of arms, 3) They help us get a fix on the ethical climate of

our organization, and 4) They serve as a beacon, vectoring us back to the path of professional conduct; they allow us to transform a climate of corrosion into a climate of ethical commitment.

Speaking of high ethical commitment, last week the Air Force released the list of selects to one of the most elite groups in our enlisted force. The Air Force's Chief Master Sergeant promotion release had 520 Senior Master Sergeants selected from 2,415 eligibles, Air Force-wide. Air Force Space Command-wide, there were 98 eligible and 20 selected, for a rate of 20.4 percent. Here at Team Pete, we have the honor of reporting that 13 of our Senior Master Sergeants

were selected into the rank of “Chief.” This is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an enlisted Air Force member and is the culmination of a stellar career.

Congratulations to our newest Chief-selects. I know you all will continue to excel and lead our Air Force, and to help develop and mold our Airmen and future Air Force leaders.

We are the greatest Air, Space and Cyber Force on the face of the Earth, bar none. The entire world looks to the United States as a beacon of hope and freedom, thanks to our brothers and sisters-in-arms. Have a great week and remember: Integrity, Service, and Excellence!

## Thule's excellent people

# Airman wins 21st SW RA of the Year

**1st Lt. Lisa Meiman**  
**821st Air Base Group**  
**Public Affairs**

A Thule Airman here was recently selected as the 21st Space Wing's Resource Advisor of the Year even though he has served as the 821st Air Base Group RA for only six months.

Master Sgt. Joseph Johnson, 821st ABG comptroller, competed against other group level RAs in the 21st Space Wing to win this award. Next, he will compete at the Air Force Space Command level.

"I was surprised that I had won. It really validated the work I did, and I am glad I'm being recognized for that work," said Sergeant Johnson, a 19-year

member of the Air Force.

Sergeant Johnson successfully managed a \$90 million operation and maintenance budget and a \$2.7 million defense health care program budget for Thule AB. He also was instrumental in garnering \$2 million in end-of-year unfunded quality-of-life fall out funding and \$1.3 million in unfunded mission critical fall out funding.

The unfunded requests must clearly identify Thule's needs and have a plan to fulfill those needs with end of year funds. Sergeant Johnson created these requests.

"Because of Sergeant Johnson's proactive work, Thule garnered millions of dollars in money for projects. He was ready to ex-



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

**Master Sgt. Joseph Johnson, 821st Air Base Group comptroller and resource advisor**

ecute, and when the funds dropped with very little notice, we got the projects on the books," said Col. Tom Peppard, 821st ABG commander.

In addition to serving as the comptroller and RA, Sergeant Johnson also serves in the role of a budget analyst/officer and financial manager.

## YoL, Community of Practice up and running

**Staff Sgt.**  
**Daylena Gonzalez**  
**Air Force Space Command**  
**Public Affairs**

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Air Force Space command offers its Airmen and civilians new tools available to sharpen insight, broaden Air Force awareness, query and receive quick answers from decision-makers who make the Air Force way of life one that can be appreciated.

Now available to the military community is the AFSPC Year of Leadership Community of Practice Web site. This site is dedicated to information exchange and discussions on topics related to the command's YoL initiative.

"Fundamentally, leadership is a contact sport. It's a concerted effort to focus energy, resources, and decision making to execute the missions of the command. These are the fundamentals of leadership," said the architect behind the YoL initiative, Chief Master Sgt. Todd Small, AFSPC command chief.

The YoL Community of Practice highlights and emphasizes leadership attributes and traits, improves leadership focus, and enhances skills and increases interaction.

Features that allow this site to be successful include a discussion forum. The forum, named "Coaching Future Leaders" provides the opportunity for leaders to interact directly with Airmen and civilians within the command. It also

quenches the thirst for answers to hard questions pertaining to everyday AFSPC life.

This by no means eliminates the chain of command, said AFSPC senior leadership. It should flatten the flow of information, making it easier to communicate up and down the chain.

Articles, videos and related Web sites are accessible through the CoP, as well as Department of Defense news and Air Force sites.

The CoP is listed on the AFSPC main page of Air Force Portal. To access the CoP, point browsers to <https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OOT-SP-57>.

You will be asked to update your user information and join the CoP.

# FIRST NIGHT



Left: The lead singers of Danish band, "Snackpack," perform classic American songs during the First Night party Nov. 1 in Bldg. 580. First Night is a Team Thule celebration of the first full day of night since the sun will not rise above the horizon again until mid-February. There will be another Thule-wide bash in February celebrating "First Light."

Above: Members of Team Thule dance after eating dinner. This year's First Night theme was "Ice."

Below: American band "Grilled Lincolns" performed after the Danish band, playing a mix of their own original music and well known dance music.



# Tough science: NSF retrieves equipment left on ice cap

**1st Lt. Lisa Meiman**  
**821st Air Base Group**  
**Public Affairs**

The National Science Foundation recently completed a recovery operation for equipment they were forced to leave 57 miles out on the ice cap in July.

The two vehicles and other equipment were part of NSF's Greenland Inland Traverse, a first-ever overland traverse that successfully navigated from Thule Air Base, Greenland, to NSF research camp Summit Station, and back to Thule again – almost.

The GRIT came up short of the 1,400 mile roundtrip when snow and ice on the ice cap became too slushy to permit travel.

A team of four people arrived in Thule Oct. 23 to finish the trip and store the equipment at Thule for the winter, flying in helicopters from Thule to the site 57 miles into the polar ice cap and quickly setting up camp complete with heat, shelter and communications.

Unfortunately, the group only spotted 10 flags out of a few hundred marking the route.

"It is not clear whether they blew down or whether the slush flows simply melted them out," said Jay Burnside, Polar Field Services construction manager for the NSF.

Team members also noticed that some of the flags had shifted from their original position, prompting questions about movement in the upper layer of ice.

"When [the team] ar-

rived at the [mapped coordinates], it was as we expected: everything was buried in about six feet of snow with some drifts higher and some scouring. At one point, the team was digging 15 feet down in three levels shoveling snow up twice," Mr. Burnside said.

"The [vehicles] were buried up to the top of the hoods. The plastic sleds, spreaders and all cargo were buried," he added. "I'm glad we did not wait until March to do this."

The team worked for two weeks to clear the snow from the equipment and restart the engines to finish the trip back to Thule.

The GRIT was used to convoy a small amount of fuel to NSF's research outposts, NEEM and Summit, where scientists are studying the environment. In future years, the NSF hopes GRIT will be used to convey greater quantities of fuel and building materials to these research sites.

The convoy originally set out in May knowing they might not be able to return to Thule before the snow and ice melted over the summer months.

This year was the first time the NSF conducted such an operation in the Northern Hemisphere. Previously, NSF-owned LC-130s and the New York Air National Guard 109th Airlift Wing's LC-130s were used to transport fuel and other vital equipment, but rising costs to run the C-130s and detrimental environmental impacts from their use led NSF to research different modes of transportation.



Courtesy photo

**A National Science Foundation tractor is uncovered by NSF team members 57 miles on the polar ice in late October after the vehicle had to be left there in July because of melting snow and ice. This tractor and other equipment were buried in about six feet of snow. The NSF returned to Thule in October to recover the equipment that had been transporting vital fuel from Thule to two NSF research outposts, NEEM and Summit, and back again when the warming weather trapped the heavy vehicles on the ice. The tractors successfully convoyed the fuel to the outposts by dragging the fuel in large bladders behind the tractors, a process used in Antarctic but not at Thule since the 1960s.**

Using technology from Antarctic traverses, large fuel bladders were towed on plastic sleds behind vehicles for use in the traverse vehicles and delivery to the sites. The operation had been proven in Antarctica and resembled operations seen at Thule in the 1960s but not since.

Thule served as a staging base for the operation, bringing in the tractors and offering storage space for the winter.

"Thule is proud to serve as a hub for environmental research in the Arctic. We are committed to protecting the environment here to the benefit of everyone in the world and preserving it for future generations," said Col. Tom Pappard, 821st Air Base Group

commander.

While the GRIT operation was a success with a safe route established through the crevasse zone, new understanding of icesheet conditions and mobility capabilities of the machines, and a perfect safety record, the return trip began too late in the summer.

NSF plans to run this operation again, but leaving earlier in the season – April – to avoid potentially getting trapped by the slush again.

"We want to focus on the challenges we had this summer, primarily mobility in the soft snow and so a series of test will be set up to determine the optimum towing vehicle for these conditions," Mr. Burnside said.



## Thule raises \$6,000 for Operation Julemand

**1st Lt. Lisa Meiman  
821st Air Base Group  
Public Affairs**

Team Thule raised more than \$6,000 for Operation Julemand in a single day during the Julemand Festival at the community center here Nov. 22.

"Whether you gave of your time or your money or both, you contributed to the overwhelming success of the event," said Ch. (Capt.) Anthony Wade, 821st Air Base Group chaplain.

Team Thule liberally donated money to the fund by paying to see their fellow Thule residents pied in the face, get their head shaved or thrown in "jail," and several people baked treats to sell with all the proceeds going to Operation Julemand.

Flemming Buchert, Green-

land Contracting, baked about 6,000 cookies for the event alone.

"Only about 2,000 people live north of us. With such a small population we really need to take care of each other," said Capt. Jen Beisel, 12th Space Warning Squadron and Julemand Festival project lead.

Two auctions and a holiday table run by Greenland Contracting also raised money for Operation Julemand, a Danish word meaning "Santa Claus."

Operation Julemand is a humanitarian program organized and supported by all members of Team Thule - American, Danish, Greenlandic and Canadian - to give back to the local Greenlandic community.

"I think Julemand stands for what Thule is all about. We aren't just Americans or Danish or Greenlandic. We are here, working together to accomplish a goal whether it is the military missions, supporting each other or supporting the local community," Captain Beisel said. "Julemand isn't just about presents. It's about leaving this place better than when you arrived."

Fundraising takes place year round in many venues such as First Night and First Light - celebrations for the last and first time Thule sees the sun in a year - but donations can also be made at the Base Exchange and Community Center at any time.

Started in 1959 by Thule

----- **Julemand, see  
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Top: Capt. Mike Balzotti, 821st Support Squadron air base operations flight commander, braces to receive a pie in the face Nov. 22 during the Julemand Festival at the community center. The festival raised more than \$6,000 for Operation Julemand, Thule's humanitarian program to give back to the local community.

Above: Tech. Sgt. Omar Zermeno-Rubio (left) receives a football autographed by O.J. Simpson after winning the football in one of the auctions Nov. 22.

# ----- Julemand, from page 6

Air Base to give back to the local Inuit community, Operation Julemand's recent successes include raising \$22,000 in 2006 and \$24,500 in 2007.

"The people of Team Thule make Thule Air Base more than just a job; they make it a home. And the generous people here have opened that home to the local community through Julemand and other community relations events," said Col. Tom Peppard, 821st Air Base Group commander.

The money raised supports children and youth programs including summer camps, senior citizens' homes, buying hundreds of Julemand gifts for the children and Armed Forces Day where Inuit families visit Thule to share their culture and learn more about Thule's diverse cultures.

This year, 300 presents were purchased for children in four local villages: Qaanaaq, Savissivik, Siorapaluk and Qeqertat. The village closest to Thule Air Base is 80 miles away by helicopter or dogsled. Other villages are even farther, but Team Thule still thinks of them as part of the local community.

The next major fundraising event is a raffle run by the Danish Liaison Office until Dec. 19. There will be 15 prizes given out. As a sample, first place prize is a trip to Qaanaaq including a dogsled ride and fishing trip, second place is \$500 from Greenland Contracting, and third and fourth places are helicopter photo safaris from Air Greenland.

The \$2 raffle tickets can be bought at the DLO office in Bldg. 461, the Greenland Tele-Post and Dundas Deli.



Tech. Sgt. John Scott, Staff Sgt. Tracey Carroll and Airman 1st Class John Rice, all from the 821st Security Forces Squadron, "arrest" Tech. Sgt. Michael Caulder, 821st Support Squadron, for an "infraction" and take him to the "Jail and Bail" cell at the community center. Team Thule could pay to have their coworkers arrested on bum charges and placed in the jail for a certain amount of time. The "Jail and Bail" was one of many ways the Julemand Festival raised money also including a "pie in the face" and head shaving fundraisers and bake sale.

Tech. Sgt. Laurie Schieble, 821st Security Forces Squadron, shaves the head of Master Sgt. Chuck Denton, 821st Security Forces Squadron, during the Julemand Festival. The top 10 people on the fundraiser list had to get their head shaved. Additional money could be donated if someone wanted to personally shave the victim's head.





Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

### JELLY FLICKERS PREMIERE

The Jelly Flickers, a band made up of local Thule residents, perform rock songs for Thule residents at the Top of the World Club Nov. 20. The band members were (from left to right) Tech. Sgt. John Morrison, 12th Space Warning Squadron, on guitar and backup vocals; Staff Sgt. Steve Rider, 821st Security Forces Squadron, on lead vocals; Airman 1st Class Eric Fowler, 821st SFS, on bass guitar; Jakob Petersen, Greenland Contracting, on drums; and Staff Sgt. Jim Selix, 12th SWS, on lead guitar.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

### BEWARE THE REDMAN

Master Sgt. Phillip Landreth, 821st Security Forces Squadron and dressed in the redman suit, charges Tech. Sgt. Ryan Gilbert, 821st SFS in the main gym at the Thule Fitness Center Oct. 28. SF Airmen had to defuse a hostile situation using just the baton. Instructors donned "redman" gear to protect them from the blows.

## Thule Spotlight



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

### JULEMAND 2008 BEGINS

Members of Thule gather to watch the annual lighting of the base tree in front of the 821st Air Base Group headquarters building Nov. 3. The lighting of the steel tree is a tradition that goes back about 50 years and symbolizes the official beginning of the Julemand season, the equivalent of the holiday season in Danish culture.

## Thule celebrates Wingman Day with forums, sports



Photo by Capt. Ed Jackowski

Master Sgt. Joseph Stratil, 12th Space Warning Squadron, spikes the volleyball over the net toward the 821st ABG staff team during the first game of the round robin tournament at the gym. Squadrons competed in volleyball and walleyball tournaments, and individuals competed for the highest score in bowling. The 821st Support Squadron won the volleyball tournament.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Above: Master Sgt. Kareema Patton (right), 821st Air Base Group, leads the 821st ABG staff discussion group in the base conference room on challenges Airmen encounter at Thule during the base's Wingman Day Nov. 21. Wingman Day was an all day event involving all squadrons in the group. In the morning, the group attended a commander's call then broke up into discussion groups within their squadrons to talk about specific issues. After a free lunch at the Top of the World Club, everyone headed to the gym to compete in a number of sports.

Right: Staff Sgt. Michael Kelly, 12th SWS, bowls for the highest score during the bowling tournament on Wingman Day. Senior Airman Nick Kaufman, 821st Security Forces Squadron, won with a high score of 163.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman



### READY TO GIVE

Tech. Sgt. Richard Price, 821st SPTS, wraps a present for a Greenlandic child in a nearby village at the community center here Nov. 4. Katerina Hejndorf and Jesper Hoths Sørensen, Greenland Contracting, wrap presents for the local children.



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

## December movies

Dec. 5-7

**Hellboy II: The Golden Army**  
**Mama Mia**

Dec. 12-13

**The Mummy 3**  
**The Rocker**

Dec. 19-21

**Babylon A.D.**  
**Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2**

Dec. 26-28

**Star Wars: The Clone Wars**  
**Tropic Thunder**



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

### COMIC RELIEF

Comedian T-Rexx performs at the Top of the World Club Nov. 2. T-Rexx performed three different shows during his week-long stay here as part of a Air Force Entertainment group that also included the American band "Grilled Lincolns." They performed three shows during their stay.

# DECEMBER EVENTS

**Sunday****Monday****Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday****Saturday**

	1	2	3	4	5 Poker Night 1900 CC  GC Holiday Party 1730 TOW	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Saint Lucy's Day  SFS Holiday Party 1900 Igloo Inn
14	15	16	17	18  12SWS Holi- day Party 1900 TOW	19  Invitational Poker Night 1900 CC	20  Trip to D- Launch
21	22 Hanukkah	23  Christmas Carols with Chaplain CC	24 Christmas Eve  Spinning Marathon and TRX Extreme gym	25 Christmas	26  AFSPC Family Day	27
28	29	30  Spinning Marathon gym  Half Marathon	31 New Years Eve			

# *New promotees at Thule*



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

**Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Swidecki**



**Staff Sgt. Jessica Muise**



**Tech. Sgt. Laurie Schieble**



**Tech. Sgt. Jon Becker**

## *Congratulations!*